

Deonarine, Victor I.

S/N: 09/683,353

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 22, 2004, the Examiner rejected each of the claims under several new grounds and over references previously unapplied. Applicant has requested reinstatement of the Appeal and has filed a Supplemental Appeal Brief concurrently herewith.

In the Office Action of June 22, 2004 the Examiner also objected to claims 5 and 11-13. As these objections are not issues that are resolvable by the Board of Patent Appeals, Applicant requests entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks to resolve the outstanding objections to the claims.

The Examiner objected to claim 5 stating "that each of the curved ends (56) of the connector includes a pair of curved sections" and that "this is not clear since the claim appears to state that there are three curved sections at each end of the connected" June 22, 2004 Office Action, pg. 2, ¶ 6. Claim 3, from which claim 5 depends, calls for, in part, wherein the connector comprises a longitudinal member having curved ends. As shown in Figs. 5 and 6 and discussed in paragraph [0031] of the Application, "clamp 18 has a longitudinal member 55 and two curved ends that slidably secure the outer surfaces 14 of the first and second indicator stick housings 17a, 17b." Application, ¶ 31. As shown in Fig. 7 and discussed in paragraph [0033] of the Application, "In one embodiment, the clamp 18 ... has a pair of flexible curved sections 62 at each end to permit snap fitting of the first and second housing elements 17a, 17b to the clamp 18." Application, ¶ 33, (emphasis added). Clearly, claim 5 is directed to the embodiment shown generally in Fig. 7 and claim 3, from which claim 5 depends, is directed to the embodiments generally shown in Figs. 5, 6, or 7. As such, it is clearly shown that the connector can be constructed having a pair of curved ends, or alternatively, that each of the curved ends include a pair of curved sections as called for in claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 5 as that which is called for therein is clearly shown and described in the present Application.

The Examiner next objected to claim 11 as lacking antecedent basis for the "second housing element" in line 3. June 22, 2004 Office Action, pg. 3, ¶ 1. The Examiner requested appropriate correction. Applicant has amended claim 11 in accordance with the Examiner's request to call for, in part, wherein the connector assembly includes a first housing element connected to a second housing element, each of the first and second housing elements having a single advancement mechanism. As such, Applicant believes claim 11, and claims 12-13 which

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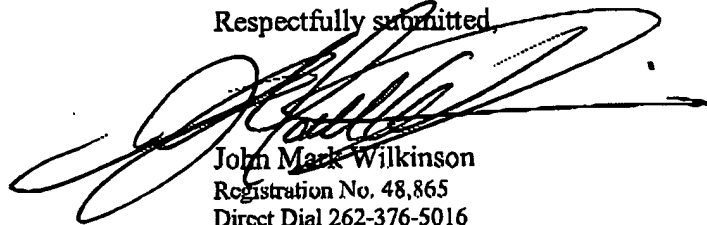
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depend therefrom, satisfy the statutory requirements of Title 35 of the U.S. Code. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Again, the rejections have been addressed in the Supplemental Appeal Brief filed concurrently herewith. Applicant requests the Amendments and Remarks presented herein be entered under 37 C.F.R §1.116(b) as complying with a requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action.

Applicant cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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